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Atty Dkt No.: 2001P22391US
Serial No.: 10/092,834AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently amended) A method of managing connections to a communications network, said method comprising the steps of:
 - a) detecting the presence of an interface connection to a communications line;
 - b) initializing said interface connection to said communications line for a first signaling protocol, comprising the steps of:
 - i) downloading CCS interface parameters from a communications server;
 - ii) waiting for an interface ready signal; and
 - iii) initiating layer 2 negotiations, an indication of successful layer 2 negotiations indicating successful CCS initialization;
 - c) checking whether said interface connection has initialized successfully; and, if said check indicates that said interface connection has not initialized successfully,
 - d) initializing said interface connection for a second signaling protocol;
wherein said first signaling protocol is common channel signaling (CCS) and said second signaling protocol is channel associated signaling (CAS).
2. (Original) A method as in claim 1 wherein, if in the checking step (c), said interface connection has initialized successfully, said interface connection provides communications over said communications line using said first signaling protocol.
3. (Original) A method as in claim 1 after initializing step (d), said method further comprising the steps of:
 - e) checking whether said interface connection has initialized successfully to said second signaling protocol; and, if said check indicates that said interface connection has initialized successfully,
 - f) providing communications over said communications line using said second signaling protocol.

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4. (Original) A method as in claim 3 wherein, if in the checking step (c), said interface connection has initialized successfully, said interface connection provides communications over said communications line using said first signaling protocol.

5. (Original) A method as in claim 3 wherein, if in the checking step (e), said interface connection has not initialized successfully, said interface connection returns an error message to said communications system.

6. (Original) A method as in claim 1 wherein, said interface connection is a T1 interface.

7. (Canceled)

8. (Canceled)

9. (Currently amended) A method ~~as in claim 7 wherein, the initializing step (d)~~ comprises: of managing connections to a communications network, said method comprising the steps of:

a) detecting the presence of an interface connection to a communications line;

b) initializing said interface connection to said communications line for a first signaling protocol;

c) checking whether said interface connection has initialized successfully; and, if said check indicates that said interface connection has not initialized successfully,

d) initializing said interface connection for a second signaling protocol, comprising the steps of:

i) downloading CAS interface parameters from a communications server;

ii) waiting for an interface ready signal; and

iii) initiating a CAS interface, an indication of a valid CAS interface

indicating successful CAS initialization;

wherein said first signaling protocol is common channel signaling (CCS) and said second signaling protocol is channel associated signaling (CAS).

10. (Currently amended) A communications network connected to a plurality of communications lines, said communications network comprising:

means for detecting the presence of an interface connection to a communications line;

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interface connection initialization means for initializing said interface connection to a signaling protocol, said interface connection initialization means initializing said interface connection to a first signaling protocol upon detection of the presence of said interface connection; and

checking means for checking whether said interface connection has initialized successfully, if said checking means determines that said interface connection has initialized to said first signaling protocol successfully, said interface connection provides communications over said communications line using said first signaling protocol, otherwise, said initialization means initializing said interface connection for a second signaling protocol;

wherein said first signaling protocol is common channel signaling (CCS) and said second signaling protocol is channel associated signaling (CAS);

wherein the initializing means comprises:

downloading means for downloading interface parameters from a communications server;

means for waiting for an interface ready signal; and

signaling negotiation means for negotiating physical layer and data link layer setup.

11. (Original) A communications network as in claim 10, wherein after said initialization means initializes said interface connection for said second signaling protocol, said checking means checks whether said interface connection has initialized successfully to said second signaling protocol and, if said check indicates that said interface connection has initialized successfully, said communications interface provides communications over said communications line using said second signaling protocol.

12. (Original) A communications network as in claim 11 wherein if after said initialization means initializes said interface connection for said second signaling protocol, said check indicates that said interface connection has not initialized successfully, an error message is returned.

13. (Canceled)

14. (Canceled)

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15. (Currently amended) A method of automatically configuring channel interfaces in a communications network, said method comprising the steps of:

a) detecting the presence of a channel interface connected to a communications line;
b) initializing said channel interface for a first signaling protocol, comprising the steps of:

i) downloading CCS interface parameters from a communications server;
ii) waiting for an interface ready signal; and
iii) initiating layer 2 negotiations, an indication of successful layer 2 negotiations indicating successful CCS initialization;

c) checking whether said channel interface has initialized successfully and if said channel interface has initialized successfully, providing communications over said communications line using said first signaling protocol; otherwise,

d) initializing said interface connection for a second signaling protocol;

e) checking whether said interface connection has initialized successfully to said second signaling protocol; and, if said check indicates that said interface connection has initialized successfully,

f) providing communications over said communications line using said second signaling protocol;

wherein said first signaling protocol is common channel signaling (CCS) and said second signaling protocol is channel associated signaling (CAS).

16. (Original) A method as in claim 15 wherein, if in the checking step (e), said channel interface has not initialized successfully, an error message is returned to said communications system.

17. (Original) A method as in claim 15 wherein, said channel interface is a T1 interface.

18. (Canceled)

19. (Canceled)

20. (Currently amended) A method ~~as in claim 18 wherein, the initializing step (d) comprises~~ of automatically configuring channel interfaces in a communications network, said method comprising the steps of:

a) detecting the presence of a channel interface connected to a communications line;

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- b) initializing said channel interface for a first signaling protocol;
 - c) checking whether said channel interface has initialized successfully and if said channel interface has initialized successfully, providing communications over said communications line using said first signaling protocol; otherwise,
 - d) initializing said interface connection for a second signaling protocol, comprising the steps of:
 - i) downloading CAS interface parameters from a communications server;
 - ii) waiting for an interface ready signal; and
 - iii) initiating a CAS interface, an indication of a valid CAS interface indicating successful CAS initialization;
 - e) checking whether said interface connection has initialized successfully to said second signaling protocol; and, if said check indicates that said interface connection has initialized successfully,
 - f) providing communications over said communications line using said second signaling protocol
- wherein said first signaling protocol is common channel signaling (CCS) and said second signaling protocol is channel associated signaling (CAS).